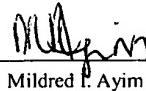


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CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. on January 29, 2002


Mildred F. Ayim

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Masahiro KIHARA et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filing Date: January 29, 2002

For: DESALINATION METHOD AND
DESALINATION APPARATUS

Examiner: Not yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 2, after the title of the invention, please insert the following new heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 7, please insert the following new heading:

A1 Description of the Related Art